

progressed. A lieutenant in the sixties,—a nurses' aid in 1918. Save the mark.

But we shall not be fooled again. Let the men do the work. Let them be patriotic and let us stay at home and make money. Money brings comfort, aids happiness, and gathers much esteem. If we can't please God and Mammon, let us make friends with Mammon.

If the Government will have none of us, let us take care of ourselves and feather our nests while the men play the patriot's game and earn the rewards of their labors.

Wrathfully yours,
ONE WHO TRIED.

COUNTY MEDICAL MEETINGS.

To the Editor:—Your immunity column affords me an opportunity to make a few suggestions for the benefit of our County Medical Societies. From the expressions that I am constantly hearing from many physicians, some of our County Medical meetings should undergo a major operation and have a lot of fungous and useless matter cut out.

The Chairman of our program committee is such an affable gentleman that he is constitutionally unable to refuse anyone a place on the program. He would rather waste the night in words than wound anyone's feelings. As a result we are deluged with volunteer papers with no facts pertinent to living questions. Conditions are changing so rapidly that the past is receding more rapidly than ever, and the reading of long encyclopedic papers (mostly copied) with monotonous intonation does not tend to increase the attendance at our County Medical meetings. What the vigorous, up-to-date men of the profession are interested in and want to hear discussed are the questions of the hour. We are living in the present and treating the living of the present. We want information that will help us to do better work today and tomorrow.

In the county adjoining ours the County Medical meetings are so interesting that they are attracting the attendance of doctors from surrounding counties. I never fail to attend when it is possible, because their papers and discussions are brief and full of useful information on timely subjects. In splendid contrast to our Society, that will devote a whole evening to discussing a rare operation that occurs once in a cycle, our neighbor Society devotes its time to solving practical questions that frequently confront the busy doctor. Historical essays and endless and pointless reminiscences are more appropriate at an old settlers' gathering than at a live County Medical meeting that should be interested in the latest and best information that science has to offer.

At a recent meeting our neighbor Society had a symposium, and six different papers were read giving essential and useful facts on six different phases of an important question that perplexes many doctors daily. No paper consumed more than ten minutes. There was no loss of time or words.

Isn't it surprising how much some can say in ten minutes and how little others can say in an hour? I have often heard one of our prosy posers string out involved scientific terms for an hour and leave us all bewildered what it was all about.

If a County Medical Society would succeed in attracting and holding the interest of its members, it must serve its members by live programs, on live subjects for live men.

I am deeply interested in the improvement of our County Medical meetings as they should be the clearing house for the best available information. Their improvement means the advancement of us average doctors, is means our standards will be raised, our information increased and thereby we shall be better fitted to give better service.

Medical science is infinite and we never can get all of it, but through our Journals and Society discussions we can constantly add to our knowledge and keep abreast of the times.

Feb. 5, 1919.

Very truly yours,
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.

State Society

The State Society has stood the storm of the past two years very successfully. As an organization it might have been classed among the non-essential industries and the question might have arisen whether or not it was worth while to maintain such an organization during the war. We were prepared to meet the situation by extreme economies and still to maintain the essential nucleus of the organization, but circumstances have been such that the Society not only lived under the handicap of the war, but thrived. Our membership has not decreased and our finances are in better condition than ever.

Moreover, we have strengthened our position in many ways. The establishment of a collateral organization such as the League for the Conservation of Public Health is a distinct advance in medical organization. While this is not strictly speaking connected with the Medical Society of the State of California, its purposes and aims are an expression of the ungratified wish of the best element in our profession, and the same men who stand for the best in our Society are sponsors for the principles of the league. It serves a purpose which the Society itself could not do.

Owing to the cessation of military activities there will be no war tax during the coming year. It is a pleasure to be able to state that 1300 of our members responded to this taxation cheerfully and by means of this generous response we were able to carry our friends through the year with all the privileges and protection of the Society.

We are again called to a general conclave at Santa Barbara, and we hope that a good proportion of them will take advantage of this opportunity. We will all gain through the personal contact which comes at these meetings as well as by the scientific material presented. Make an early reservation at the Hotel Potter, which is now called the Hotel Belvedere, and get as much profit out of the event as possible.

County Societies

ALAMEDA COUNTY.

At the regular meeting of the Alameda County Medical Association, held February 17th, 1919, the following program was presented:

1. Proposed New Health Center of Alameda County. Miss Annie Florence Brown.
2. Recent Results in the Use of the Ductless Glands in Obstetrics. Dr. F. M. Loomis.
3. Some Impressions Gathered During My Five Months' Service in the United States Army. Dr. J. L. Lohse.

A vote of thanks was extended to Miss Brown and on motion of Dr. E. R. Sill the proposed Alameda County Public Health Center was endorsed by the Association.

Dr. Loomis' paper was discussed by Dr. Edith Brownsill and Dr. C. M. Page.

Dr. Lohse said in part:

The personal equation is a negligible factor in the Medical Corps. Professional ability and adaptability of the officer to the demands of the serv-